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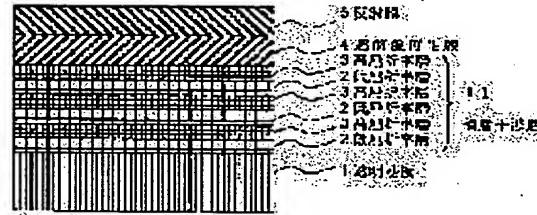
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ICHIHARA KATSUTARO**(54) OPTICAL RECORDING MEDIUM****(57)Abstract:**

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide an optical recording medium to which a method for super-resolving/reproducing CAD is adapted by using a super-resolving/reproducing film capable of increasing the extinction coefficient by light irradiation.

SOLUTION: A transparent substrate 1 usable also as a recording layer, the super-resolving/reproducing film 2 the extinction coefficient of which can be selectively increased by irradiating with the light of the amount exceeding the prescribed threshold value, a laminated interference layer 11 and a reflection film 5 are laminated successively to obtain this optical recording medium. This optical recording medium is constituted so that a region to be irradiated with the light of the amount exceeding the threshold value can be made to be an optical opening and the light reflected only from this region is detected to read the recorded information. When the film 2 is a signal layer, this region becomes an optical mask since the reflectance is lowered and the detection of the light reflected only from this region is difficult. But this region can be made to be the optical opening by providing the layer 11 to perform multiple reflection and multiple interference.

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CLAIMS**[Claim(s)]****[Claim 1]**A recording layer.

A super-resolution-reproducing film to which an extinction coefficient becomes large selectively by reflecting layer with which irradiation light is irradiated via this recording layer, and the optical exposure of quantity which is formed in said irradiation light side of said reflecting layer at least,

and exceeds a predetermined threshold.

It is the optical recording medium provided with the above, and is formed in the irradiation light side at least to said reflecting layer, and a lamination interference layer which has a multiple echo, a high refractive index layer which carries out multiple interference, and a low refractive index layer for incident light of said irradiation light and catoptric light by said reflecting layer is provided.

[Claim 2]The optical recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said lamination interference layer is the layered product of three or more layers by which a high refractive index layer and a low refractive index layer were laminated one by one.

[Claim 3]The optical recording medium according to claim 2 using said super-resolution-reproducing film also [layer / in said high refractive index layer and said low refractive index layer / at least one].

[Claim 4]The optical recording medium according to claim 2 characterized by thickness of said high refractive index layer and a low refractive index layer being $\lambda/4$ substantially when wavelength of said irradiation light is set to λ .

[Claim 5]. Make substantially into the maximum reflectance of an optical recording medium to irradiation light which exceeds said threshold between said reflecting layer and said lamination interference layer. Or the optical recording medium possessing an optical matching layer by which thickness control was carried out so that reflectance of an optical recording medium to irradiation light below said threshold might be substantially made into the minimum according to claim 1.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Field of the Invention]This invention relates to the optical recording medium using the super-resolution-reproducing film in which an optical recording medium is started, especially the catoptric light of a field narrower than the light diameter of irradiation light is obtained.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art]Optical disk memory which performs reproduction of information, or record and reproduction by the exposure of an optical beam is put in practical use by various files, such as a sound, a picture, and computer data, as memory storage which has large scale nature, rapid access nature, and medium portability.

The development continues to be expected.

[0003]As densification art of an optical disc, the short wavelength formation of the gas laser for original recording cutting, the short wavelength formation of the semiconductor laser which is a light source of operation, high-numerical-aperture-izing of an object lens, and sheet metal-

ization of the optical disc are considered. In a recordable optical disc, there are various approaches, such as mark length record and land groove recordings. The super-resolution-reproducing art using a medium film is proposed as art in which the effect of the densification of an optical disc is large, although super resolution art has been proposed as art peculiar to magneto-optical disc at the beginning, the trial with which a ROM disk also provides and carries out super resolution reproducing of the super-resolution-reproducing film from which the transmissivity of light changes with the exposures of regenerated light to the regenerated light exposure side to a recording layer after that is reported. Thus, super-resolution-reproducing art was understood that it can apply to all the optical discs, such as a magneto-optical disc, CD-ROM, CD-R, WORM, and a phase change type optical recording medium.

[0004]The super-resolution-reproducing film proposed with the conventional super-resolution-reproducing art is divided roughly into a heat mode method and a photon mode method. By a heat mode method, a super-resolution-reproducing film is made to generate a phase transition etc. with heating by regenerated light exposure, and an optical opening with high transmissivity is formed. The shape of this optical opening becomes the same as that of the constant temperature line of a super-resolution-reproducing film. By a photon mode method, a photochromic material is used as a super-resolution-reproducing film. An electron is excited from a ground level from an optical exposure to a short-life excitation state, and the photochromic material using coloring or the decolorization by regenerated light exposure reveals change of light absorption characteristics by changing to very long-life metastable excitation level, and being further, caught from excitation level. Therefore, it is necessary to carry out deexcitation of the electron caught by metastable excitation level to a ground state for reproducing repeatedly, and to close the once formed optical opening. There is also an example using the semiconductor continuation film or semiconductor particulate dispersion film which used absorption saturation phenomena as a super-resolution-reproducing film of a photon mode method. When an optical dose exceeds a predetermined threshold, the transmissivity of the material itself increases such super-resolution-reproducing materials. That is, it has the characteristic that an extinction coefficient decreases.

[0005]That is, since light transmittance of a field with many optical doses (optical opening part) is made high and light transmittance of a field with few optical doses (optical mask part) is made low, the difference of the luminous intensity which penetrates an optical opening part, and the luminous intensity which penetrates an optical mask part can be enlarged.

[0006]On the other hand, when using the change to a developing state from a discoloring state with materials, such as KBr, CuBr, RbBr, CuCl, etc. which cause two-photon absorption, or the material in which photochromism and thermochromism are shown, and an optical dose exceeds a predetermined threshold, an extinction coefficient increases.

[0007]For example, when an optical exposure is carried out using the ordinary laser beam, using this material as a super-resolution-reproducing film, the center section of the optical irradiation area where irradiation light intensity is high turns into an optical mask part, and the neighborhood of an optical irradiation area end where irradiation light intensity is low serves as an optical opening. Therefore, enlarging intensity difference of the transmitted light of a super-resolution-reproducing film cannot use the field where irradiation light intensity is strong for reading of information difficult.

[0008]namely, the optical exposure exceeding a threshold — an extinction coefficient — the light spot center section where irradiation light intensity is strong did not become an optical opening, but the material which becomes large had the problem that efficiency for light utilization fell.

[0009]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention]As mentioned above, when it irradiated with the light exceeding a predetermined threshold and the material which an extinction coefficient increases was used as a super-resolution-reproducing film, in order to make into an optical mask part the field where irradiation light intensity is strong, there was a problem that efficiency for light utilization fell.

[0010]In view of such a problem, it succeeds in this invention, and it is a thing.

It is providing the optical recording medium which can read the information on the field where the irradiation light intensity in an optical irradiation area is high by the optical exposure exceeding the purpose, using the material in which an extinction coefficient becomes large as a super-resolution-reproducing film.

[0011]

[Means for Solving the Problem]A reflecting layer by which irradiation light is irradiated with an optical recording medium of this invention via a recording layer and this recording layer, Are a super-resolution-reproducing film to which an extinction coefficient becomes large selectively by the optical exposure of quantity which is formed in said irradiation light side of said reflecting layer at least, and exceeds a predetermined threshold an optical recording medium to provide, and within an irradiation light spot to an optical recording medium, In an optical recording medium with which a field exceeding said threshold differs in reflectance of an optical recording medium from a field below said threshold, It is formed in the irradiation light side at least to said reflecting layer, and a lamination interference layer which has a multiple echo, a high refractive index layer which carries out multiple interference, and a low refractive index layer for incident light of said irradiation light and catoptric light by said reflecting layer is provided.

[0012]. Namely, since an absorptivity will increase in a field with many optical doses if a super-resolution-reproducing (rate of light reflex and light transmittance generally decrease since absorptivity increases) film which an extinction coefficient increases by the optical exposure exceeding a predetermined threshold is used by a monolayer, reduce light transmittance and a rate of a light reflex. Only a field where light which exceeds a predetermined threshold on a reflecting layer in an optical recording medium which laminated a recording layer, a lamination interference layer, and a super-resolution-reproducing film was irradiated found out that reflectance of an optical recording medium increased.

[0013]According to the optical recording medium of such this invention, a field which irradiates with light exceeding a predetermined threshold can be made into a field where reflectance is high, and utilization efficiency of light can be raised.

[0014]According to the optical recording medium of this invention, it becomes possible to enlarge a reflectance difference of a field (it is hereafter called an optical opening part) where reflectance of an optical recording medium is high, and a field (it is hereafter called an optical mask part) where a rate of a light reflex is low, and problems, such as a reading error, are reduced.

[0015]As for said lamination interference layer, it is desirable for a high refractive index layer and a low refractive index layer to be the layered products of three or more layers laminated one by one.

[0016]Namely, a high refractive index layer / low refractive index layer / high refractive index layer / low refractive index layer ... Laminating order, or a low refractive index layer / high refractive index layer / low refractive index layer / high refractive index layerIt laminates by laminating order and an effect mentioned above becomes remarkable by increasing a multiple echo and an opportunity to interfere more.

[0017]A high refractive index layer is a layer with a high refractive index relatively to a ***** interference layer, and a low refractive index layer refers to a layer with a low refractive index relatively to a ***** interference layer.

[0018]Said super-resolution-reproducing film can be used also [layer / in said high refractive index layer and said low refractive index layer / at least one].

[0019]A high refractive index layer of a lamination interference layer which consists of a low refractive index layer/a high refractive index layer is adjoined, It is also possible to use a super-resolution-reproducing film as a part of lamination interference layer by forming a super-resolution-reproducing film whose refractive index is smaller than this high refractive index layer, or adjoining a low refractive index layer and forming a super-resolution-reproducing film with a bigger refractive index than this low refractive index layer.

[0020]An optical matching layer by which thickness control was carried out so that reflectance of an optical recording medium to irradiation light which exceeds said threshold between said

reflecting layer and said lamination interference layer might be substantially made into the maximum or reflectance of an optical recording medium to irradiation light below said threshold might be substantially made into the minimum can be provided.

[0021]A rate of a light reflex of an optical opening part turns into the greatest reflectance, or an optical recording medium of this invention adjusts lamination so that a rate of a light reflex of an optical mask part may serve as the minimum, and to enlarge intensity difference of catoptric light of an optical mask part and an optical opening part is desired. A rate of a light reflex of an optical opening part may not serve as the maximum with thickness of a super-resolution-reproducing film, a refractive index, or a refractive index or reflectance of a transparent substrate that are provided if needed. A layer which consists of material with a predetermined refractive index is arranged between a reflection film and a lamination interference layer, and it becomes possible to adjust so that a rate of a light reflex of an optical opening part may serve as the maximum by controlling the thickness.

[0022]As for an extinction coefficient of a super-resolution-reproducing film used for this invention, a refractive index refers to real part of a complex index of refraction for an imaginary part of a complex index of refraction.

[0023]

[Embodiment of the Invention]An example of the sectional view of the optical recording medium in connection with this invention is shown in drawing 1.

[0024]In the optical recording medium of drawing 1, the lamination interference layer 11, the super-resolution-reproducing film 4, and the reflection film 5 in which the low refractive index layer 2 and the two or more layers high refractive index layer 3 were laminated one by one are formed one by one on the optical disk substrate 1 from which recorded information serves as a recording layer formed as a pit. In the example of drawing 1, the low refractive index layer 2 and 3 sets of high refractive index layers 3 are laminated.

[0025]Next, the reflectance characteristics of an optical recording medium when the extinction coefficient of the super-resolution-reproducing film concerning this invention changes are explained.

[0026]Drawing 2 is a figure showing the relation of the irradiation light wavelength and reflectance of the optical recording medium of this invention.

[0027]First, in drawing 2, as for a super-resolution-reproducing film, an extinction coefficient (it is hereafter called an early extinction coefficient) in case the refractive index 2.3 (the change by irradiation light is nothing) and irradiation light are below a threshold uses 0. The lamination interference layer of six layers used SiO_2 as a low refractive index layer which was explained by drawing 1, and using ZnS as a high refractive index layer is used. When each thickness is 68.3 nm and 42.7 nm and a laser beam with a wavelength of 410 nm is used as irradiation light, the thickness of the super-resolution-reproducing film has been 73.5 nm so that the reflectance in early stages of an optical recording medium may serve as the minimum.

[0028]The reflectance of an optical recording medium when such an optical recording medium is irradiated with the irradiation light below a predetermined threshold (the refractive index 2.3 of a super-resolution-reproducing film, extinction coefficient 0), and irradiation light exceed a predetermined threshold, and drawing 2 shows the calculation result of reflectance when the extinction coefficient of a super-resolution-reproducing film changes to 0.1, 0.2, or 0.5.

[0029]The reflectance difference of the time of the extinction coefficient of a super-resolution-reproducing film being an early refractive index and the time of exceeding a predetermined threshold and an extinction coefficient changing is shown in drawing 3.

[0030]By about 410 nm of irradiation light, it turns out that reflectance increases as an extinction coefficient becomes large, so that clearly from drawing 2. Namely, the extinction coefficient of a super-resolution-reproducing film increases in the optical irradiation area exceeding a predetermined threshold. The rate of a light reflex of an optical recording medium increases, only the field serves as an optical opening part, and it turns out that the reflectance of an optical recording medium serves as an optical mask part small in the optical irradiation area below the predetermined threshold whose super-resolution-reproducing film continues being an early extinction coefficient.

[0031] Thus, reflectance's increasing with the increase in the extinction coefficient of a super-resolution-reproducing film is having provided the lamination interference layer, and it is because irradiation light carried out the multiple echo and carried out multiple interference within the optical recording medium.

[0032] Drawing 3 shows that the reflectance difference of an optical opening part and an optical mask part becomes large as the rate of change of an extinction coefficient becomes large.

[0033] Next, the super-resolution-reproducing art using such an optical recording medium is explained.

[0034] Drawing 4 is a mimetic diagram of the optical recording medium seen from the optical direction of radiation for explaining super-resolution-reproducing art.

[0035] Along with the track T1, T2, and T3; the record section 42 is formed in the optical recording medium 41 with the predetermined pitch, and the recorded information on each track is read to it by scanning the track T1, the track T2, and track T3 for regenerated light sequentially, respectively.

[0036] Drawing 4 is a drawing when a laser beam etc. are used and it irradiates with regenerated light, and shows the light spot of the regenerated light to the track T2 by S. In the optical recording medium which does not possess a super-resolution-reproducing film, if the record section is formed in the pitch smaller than a light spot diameter in order to receive catoptric light from the same field as light spot S, recorded information cannot be read in light spot at two or more record sections 42 and accuracy.

[0037] When the laser beam which serves as an optical dose in which only the neighborhood of the central part of light spot S exceeds a predetermined threshold in the optical recording medium of this invention, for example is used, The field where the reflectance of an optical recording medium becomes high, the optical opening A narrower than light spot S is formed, and the light below a threshold predetermined [in light spot] is irradiated only with the optical irradiation area exceeding a predetermined threshold is set to optical mask M with low reflectance. As a result, a light spot S twist is also enabled to read the record section only within the narrow optical opening A, and it also enables a light spot S twist to read correctly the recorded information in which the record section was formed in the narrow pitch.

[0038] On the other hand for comparison, there was no lamination interference layer with the composition of drawing 2, in the optical recording medium with which only the super-resolution-reproducing film and the reflection film were formed, the reflectance in each wavelength when the extinction coefficient of a super-resolution-reproducing film changes from 0 to 0.1, 0.2, and 0.5 was shown in drawing 9, and the amount of reflectance changes was shown in drawing 10.

However, the thickness of the super-resolution-reproducing film was 73.5 nm so that the rate of a light reflex might serve as the minimum, when a super-resolution-reproducing film was an early extinction coefficient.

[0039] As shown in drawing 9 and 10, when there is no laminated structure of a low refractive index layer and a high refractive index layer, it turns out that reflectance falls with the increase in an extinction coefficient.

[0040] The super resolution reproducing using this recording medium is explained using drawing 11.

[0041] [near / strong / the central part of an optical beam], the extinction coefficient of a super-resolution-reproducing film becomes large, an absorptivity increases, the reflectance of an optical recording medium falls, and optical mask M is formed near the central part of light spot S. Near the boundary region of light spot S, since the extinction coefficient is small, reflectance becomes large and the optical opening A is formed.

[0042] Namely, since the reflectance of the field which has the low reflectance of a field with much irradiation light quantity, and little irradiation light quantity is high, A possibility that the intensity difference of the catoptric light of optical mask M and the optical opening A becomes small, and two or more record sections 102 are included in the optical opening part A becomes high, and there is a possibility that the reading error of recorded information may arise.

[0043] By the optical exposure exceeding a predetermined threshold as mentioned above, selectively, an extinction coefficient is the material which becomes large and, generally, as for

the super-resolution-reproducing film concerning this invention, the thing of a heat mode system and a photon mode system is known.

[0044]With the super-resolution-reproducing film of a heat mode system, only the portion which exceeds a threshold with heating by optical beam exposure is selectively generated for a phase transition etc., and an extinction coefficient is changed. For example, thermochromic materials, such as phase change materials, such as GeSbTe of a chalcogen system and AgInSbTe, a BIANSURON system, and a spiropyran, etc. are mentioned.

[0045]That for which the super-resolution-reproducing film of a photon mode system used coloring or decolorization; for example by optical exposures, such as a photochromic material, is mentioned. An electron excites a photochromic material from regulation ranking from an optical exposure to a short-life excitation state, and a refractive index is selectively changed by changing to very long-life metastable excitation level, and being further, caught from excitation level. Specifically, a PIROBENZO pyran series molecule, a fulgide system molecule, a diaryl ethene system molecule, a cyclophane system molecule, azobenzene, etc. are mentioned. A semiconductor, a semiconductor particulate dispersion film, etc. from which an optical constant changes with absorption saturation are mentioned. A semiconductor, a semiconductor particulate dispersion film, etc. from which an extinction coefficient changes with absorption saturation are mentioned.

[0046]Since the lamination interference layer concerning this invention makes cross protection take out, it is desirable to use thickness of optical film thickness $\lambda / 4$ substantially to irradiation light, such as regenerated light. It is desirable to take the large refractive index difference of an adjoining high refractive index layer and a low refractive index layer. Specifically SiO_2 and aluminum₂O₃, ZrO_2 , What is necessary is just to use sulfides, such as nitrides, such as fluorides, such as oxides, such as TiO_2 and ZrO_2 , MgF_2 , and CaF_2 , AlN, and Si_3N_4 , and ZnS, or those mixtures.

[0047]In the lamination interference layer which laminated the layer from which a refractive index differs, the high refractive index layer which constitutes the lamination interference layer concerning this invention, or a low refractive index layer refers to the layer which consists of material of a high refractive index or a low refractive index relatively to *****. As the combination, as a high refractive index layer, for example, ZrO_2 , TiO_2 , ZnS, ZnS-SiO₂, etc. can be used for MgF_2 , CaF_2 , SiO_2 , and aluminum₂O₃, Na₃aluminum₂F₆, etc. as a low refractive index layer.

[0048]A lamination interference layer laminates a high refractive index layer and a low refractive index layer one by one, and as for this number of laminations, although, it is desirable to consider it as five layers – about eight layers. However, depending on the laminating order and the refractive index of a high refractive index layer and a low refractive index layer, even if it is except this, the reflectance of a recording medium increases with the increase in an extinction coefficient. In the optical recording medium shown in drawing 1, the reflectance difference at the time of using the super-resolution-reproducing film from which an extinction coefficient changes with optical exposures to 0.5 from 0 about the lamination interference layer from which the number of laminations differs is shown in drawing 5 a. Here, even if four layers are laminated in order of a low refractive index layer, a high refractive index layer, a high refractive index layer, and a low refractive index layer and an extinction coefficient increases to 0.5, compared with the time of an extinction coefficient being 0, reflectance is low, but in six layers and eight layers, compared with the time of an extinction coefficient being 0, reflectance is high, and an optical opening can be formed. Compared with the time of the number of laminations being [an extinction coefficient] 0 in ten layers, reflectance becomes low. On the other hand, the lamination of drawing 1 shows a reflectance difference when a lamination interference layer uses the super-resolution-reproducing film from which an extinction coefficient changes with optical exposures to 0.5 from 0 about the lamination interference layer from which the number of laminations differs in the composition which laminated from the substrate side in order of the high refractive index layer/low refractive index layer to drawing 5 b. In this case, even if it changes the number of laminations from four layers to ten layers, compared with the time of an

extinction coefficient being 0, reflectance becomes high, but a reflectance difference is the largest at the time of six layers. Thus, the optimal number of laminations is decided by the laminating order of a high refractive index layer and a low refractive index layer, and the refractive index of each class. In the case of which, it is desirable for the reflectance in a set wavelength in case an extinction coefficient is 0 to be 20% or less, and it is more desirable as reflectance is small.

[0049]In order to increase the number of laminations of a lamination interference layer, it is also possible to operate said super-resolution-reproducing film as a part of lamination interference layer. For example, the super-resolution-reproducing film which consists of material whose refractive index is smaller than it when the layer which adjoins, forms a lamination interference layer and a super-resolution-reproducing film, and adjoins a super-resolution-reproducing film is a high refractive index layer, What is necessary is just to form the super-resolution-reproducing film which consists of material with a bigger refractive index than it, when the layer which adjoins a super-resolution-reproducing film is a low refractive index layer.

[0050]As shown in drawing 1, the recording layer concerning this invention Polycarbonate, polymethylmethacrylate, May form suitable layers, such as an optical disk substrate which consists of glass etc., may form a pit, and, For example, phase change materials, such as a germanium-Sb-Te system and an Ag-In-Sb-Te system, etc. are used as a recording layer, this recording layer is irradiated with an optical beam, and recorded information may be created by changing some of those optical properties.

[0051]As for the reflecting layer concerning this invention, it is preferred to carry out total internal reflection of the light irradiated via the recording layer, lamination interference layer, and super-resolution-reproducing film which were mentioned above. For example, it is desirable to use aluminum alloys, such as aluminum and aluminum-Cr, aluminum-Ti, and aluminum-Mo, Au, Ag, Cu, etc. as the layer which has not less than 50-nm average thickness.

[0052]In the optical recording medium shown in drawing 1, by adjusting the thickness of a super-resolution-reproducing film, adjusted the reflectance of the optical mask part of an optical recording medium so that it might become the minimum, but An optical matching layer is formed between an interference layer and a reflection film, and by adjusting the refractive index and thickness of this optical matching layer, even if it makes a super-resolution-reproducing film into any value, reflectance of the optical mask part of an optical recording medium can be made into the minimum. The refractive index and thickness of an optical matching layer may be adjusted so that the reflectance of the optical opening part of an optical recording medium may serve as the maximum.

[0053]The modification of an optical recording medium which was mentioned above is shown in drawing 6.

[0054]In drawing 6, the super-resolution-reproducing film 4 is formed on the lamination interference layer 11 of six layer systems by which the low refractive index layer 2 and the high refractive index layer 3 were laminated one by one on the optical disk substrate 1 which consists of transparent substrates, and the lamination interference layer 11, This super-resolution-reproducing film is formed from the material of the refractive index lower than an adjoining high refractive index layer. On the super-resolution-reproducing film, the recording layer 9, the optical matching layer 10, and the reflection film 5 which consist of phase change materials are laminated one by one.

[0055]Since an extinction coefficient can use the field where light intensity is strong as an optical opening using the super-resolution-reproducing film which becomes large by the optical exposure exceeding a predetermined threshold according to the optical recording medium of this invention as mentioned above, an optical recording medium with high efficiency for light utilization is obtained.

[0056]Although the reproduction art of the optical recording medium using a super resolution re-film was explained, the optical recording medium of this invention can also form a record section smaller than light spot with the same art.

[0057]

[Example]Hereafter, the example of this invention is described with reference to drawings.

[0058]The lamination of example 1 this example laminates PC (polycarbonate) board / lamination interference layer / super-resolution-reproducing film / reflection film one by one. A lamination interference layer is the structure laminated six layers one by one from the PC board side in order of the low refractive index layer and the high refractive index layer.

[0059]The pit sequence as length with same length of 0.2 micrometer – 0.6 micrometer, width 0.3um, and interval is formed in the PC board according to the track, respectively. A reproducing wave length is 413 nm. The refractive indicees of a low refractive index layer and a high refractive index layer are 1.5 and 2.4, respectively, and thickness is the thickness, 68.8 nm of low refractive index layers, and 43.0 nm of high refractive index layers by which optical film thickness is equivalent to $\lambda/4$. The extinction coefficient of 2.3 and the first stage of the refractive index of a super-resolution-reproducing film is 0.05.

[0060]The thickness of the super-resolution-reproducing film has been 73.5 nm so that reflectance may serve as the minimum in the initial state with which regenerated light is not irradiated. If regenerated light is irradiated with this super-resolution-reproducing film, an extinction coefficient will change to 0.3. The thickness is 50 nm, using AlTi in a reflection film.

[0061]As a comparative example, except that there was no lamination interference layer, the disk of the same composition as Example 1 was produced.

[0062]The pit length dependency of CNR was measured by the playback evaluator which used the Kr⁺ gas laser as the light source for the disk of Example 1 and the comparative example. However, they are a reproducing wave length of 413 nm of a reproduction evaluator, and 1 mW of reproduction power. The result was shown in drawing 7.

[0063]When pit length is as long as 0.4 micrometers or more, the comparative example of CNR without a super-resolution-reproducing film is larger but so that drawing 7 may show, and if pit length becomes shorter than 0.4 micrometer, CNR will decrease rapidly. This is because sufficient super resolution effect is not acquired.

[0064]On the other hand, the disk of this example is maintaining high CNR, even if pit length becomes short with 0.2 micrometer. From the above thing, it has checked that a multilayer dielectric had an effect in the improvement in the characteristic of a super-resolution-reproducing film.

[0065]The lamination of example 2 this example is a PC board / lamination interference layer / low refractive index layer / super-resolution-reproducing film / matching layer / reflection film. A lamination interference layer is the structure which is the order of a low refractive index layer and a high refractive index layer, and was laminated four layers one by one from the PC board side. The pit sequence as length with same length of 0.2 micrometer – 0.6 micrometer, width 0.3um, and interval is formed in the PC board, respectively. A reproducing wave length is 413 nm. The refractive indicees of a low refractive index layer and a high refractive index layer are 1.5 and 2.4, respectively, and thickness is the thickness, 68.6 nm of low refractive index layers, and 43.0 nm of high refractive index layers by which optical film thickness is equivalent to $\lambda/4$. The extinction coefficient of 2.3 and the first stage of the refractive index of a super-resolution-reproducing film is 0.05, and the thickness is the thickness by which *** thickness is equivalent to $\lambda/4$, and 44.9 nm. If regenerated light is irradiated with this super-resolution-reproducing film, an extinction coefficient will change to 0.3.

[0066]AlN was used for the matching layer. The refractive index of AlN is 1.8. The thickness of the matching layer has been 100 nm so that reflectance may serve as the minimum in the initial state with which regenerated light is not irradiated. The thickness is 50 nm, using AlTi in a reflection film.

[0067]The same measurement as Example 1 was performed, and the effect of the approximately said appearance was checked as Example 1.

[0068]The lamination of example 3 this example is the same lamination as Example 1. However, the refractive index of a super-resolution-reproducing film is [the extinction coefficient of 2.25 and the first stage] 0.05.

[0069]As for this super-resolution-reproducing film, in a refractive index, 2.3 extinction coefficients change with the exposures of regenerated light to 0.25. The same measurement as Example 1 was performed, and the same effect as abbreviation was checked.

[0070]The lamination of example 4 this example is a PC board / lamination interference layer / super-resolution-reproducing film / matching layer / recording layer / interference layer / reflection film. A lamination interference layer is the laminated structure laminated six layers one by one from the PC board side in order of the low refractive index layer and the high refractive index layer.

[0071]That is, a recording layer is the same composition as Example 1 except germanium₂Sb₂Te₅, 20 nm, and an interference layer being ZnS-SiO₂ and 40 nm.

[0072]The disk which does not have a lamination interference layer as a comparative example was produced.

[0073]The recording/reproduction wavelength of 413 nm estimated the **** rec/play student characteristic using the optical disc of this example and a comparative example. 6 m/s and a record power level were set as 9 mW, and the elimination power level was set as 4 mW, and while mark length changed the mark interval by overwrite mode in a 0.3-micrometer recording mark, it recorded with single frequency.

[0074]Under the present circumstances, the recording compensation which divides a recording pulse in order to prevent the influence of thermal interference was applied.

[0075]It played about the optical disc recorded as mentioned above. When it was set as 1 mW of reproduction power, the high density recording characteristic which reproduced the track with which mark intervals differ was evaluated. This result is shown in drawing 8.

[0076]In the optical disc of a comparative example, the influence of intersymbol interference has a strong mark interval at less than 0.3 micrometer, and CNR is falling. Since the cross talk from an adjacent track is also large, the level of CNR does not become so high even when the mark interval on a track is long. On the other hand, by the disk of this example, at least 0.15 micrometer of mark intervals can be reproduced by high CNR. In order not to be influenced at all by a cross talk, CNR when a mark interval is longer than 0.15 micrometer is also higher than a comparative example.

[0077]

[Effect of the Invention]Even if it uses a super-resolution-reproducing film which an extinction coefficient increases by optical exposure in laminating a low refractive index layer and a high refractive index layer, the super high resolution reproduction method of CAD can be performed, and the recording mark of a ** mark pitch and a narrow track pitch can be reproduced by a high resolution. The material which can be adapted for a super resolution film can be opened.

[Translation done.]

* NOTICES *

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3.In the drawings, any words are not translated.

DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1]The sectional view showing an example of the optical recording medium of this invention.

[Drawing 2]The figure showing the relation of the irradiation light wavelength and reflectance of the optical recording medium of this invention.

[Drawing 3] The figure showing the reflectance difference of the time of the extinction coefficient of a super-resolution-reproducing film being an early refractive index, and the time of exceeding a predetermined threshold and an extinction coefficient changing.

[Drawing 4] The figure for explaining super-resolution-reproducing art.

[Drawing 5] The figure showing the reflectance difference of the optical recording medium by the difference in the number of laminations of a lamination interference layer.

[Drawing 6] The figure showing the modification of the optical recording medium of this invention.

[Drawing 7] The figure showing the pit length dependency of ***** CNR in the optical recording medium of the example of this invention.

[Drawing 8] The figure showing the mark interval dependency of CNR in the optical recording medium of the example of this invention.

[Drawing 9] The figure showing reflectance when the extinction coefficient of the super-resolution-reproducing film of the optical recording medium with which only the super-resolution-reproducing film and the reflection film were formed changes.

[Drawing 10] The figure showing the amount of reflectance changes of drawing 9.

[Drawing 11] The figure for explaining the super-resolution-reproducing art in an optical recording medium without a lamination interference layer.

[Description of Notations]

- 1 ... Substrate
- 2 ... Super-resolution-reproducing film
- 3 ... *****
- 4 ... High refractive index layer
- 5 ... Reflection film
- 11 ... Laminated constitution

[Translation done.]

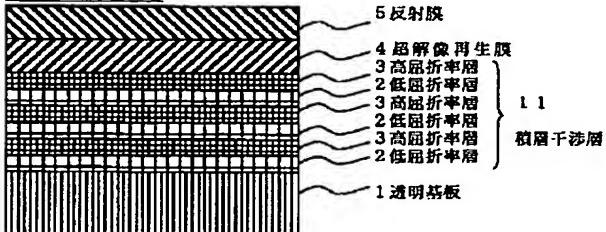
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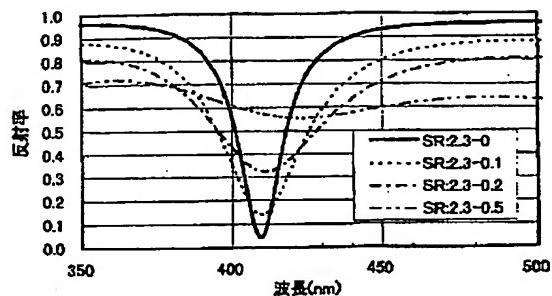
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DRAWINGS

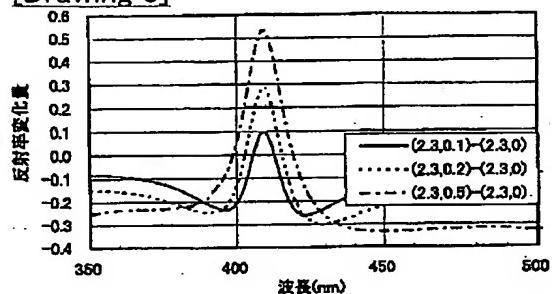
[Drawing 1]



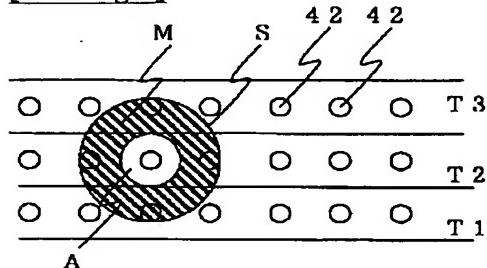
[Drawing 2]



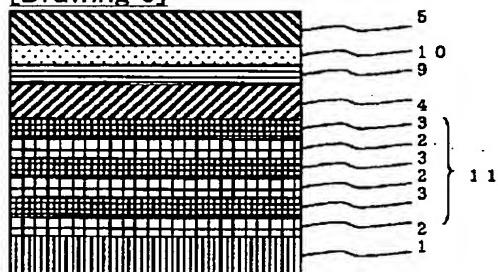
[Drawing 3]



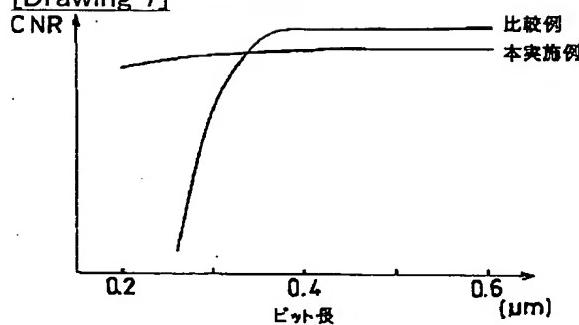
[Drawing 4]



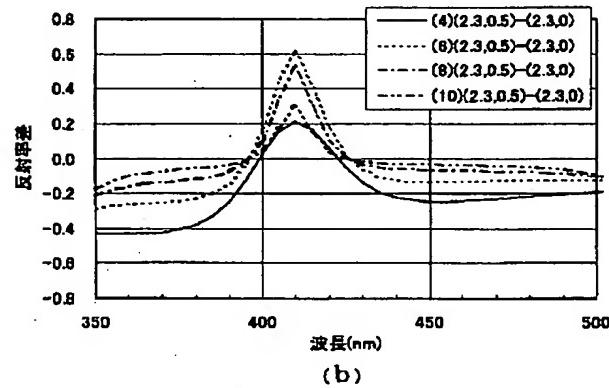
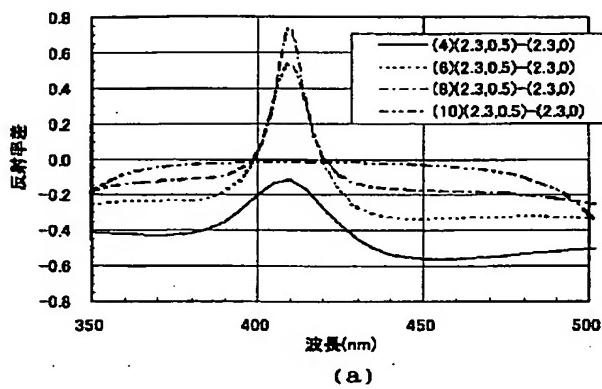
[Drawing 6]



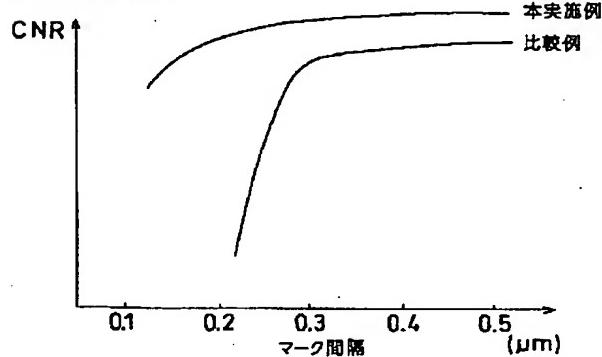
[Drawing 7]



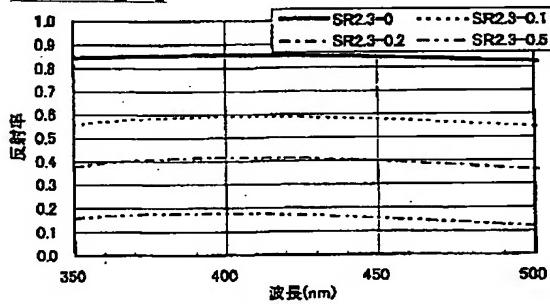
[Drawing 5]



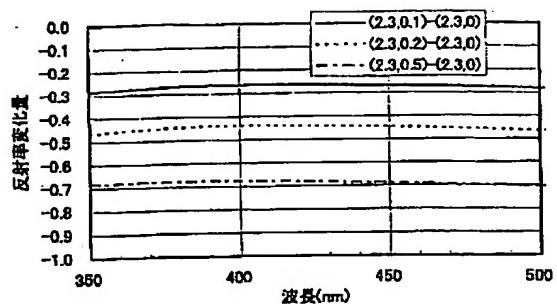
[Drawing 8]



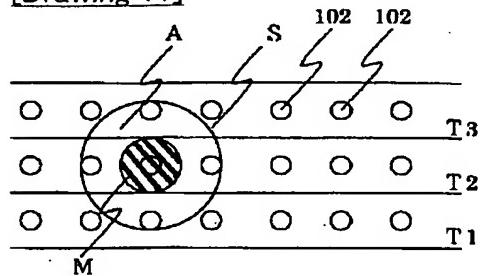
[Drawing 9]



[Drawing 10]



[Drawing 11]



[Translation done.]

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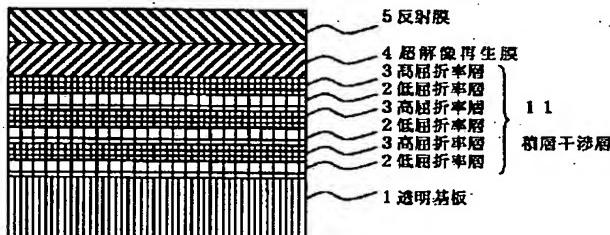
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MA39

(54)【発明の名称】光記録媒体

(57)【要約】

【課題】光照射により消衰係数の増加する超解像再生膜を用い、CADの超解像再生方法を採用できる光記録媒体の提供。

【解決手段】記録層を兼用する透明基板1、所定の閾値を超える量の光照射により選択的に消衰係数が大きくなる超解像再生膜2、積層干渉層11、および反射膜5を順次積層し、閾値を超える光照射領域を光学開口とし、この領域のみの反射光を検出し記録情報を読取る。所定の閾値を超える光照射領域は、前記超解像再生膜が単層の場合には反射率が低下し光学マスクとなり、この領域のみの反射光検出が困難であるが、本発明では積層干渉層11を設け、多重反射・多重干渉させることで所定の閾値を超える領域を光学開口とすることを可能にした。



【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】記録層と、この記録層を介して照射光が照射される反射層と、すくなくとも前記反射層の前記照射光側に形成され、所定の閾値を超える量の光照射により選択的に消衰係数が大きくなる超解像再生膜とを具備する光記録媒体であり、

光記録媒体への照射光スポット内で、前記閾値を超える領域と、前記閾値以下の領域とで、光記録媒体の反射率が異なる光記録媒体において、

前記反射層に対して少なくとも照射光側に形成され、前記照射光の入射光および、前記反射層による反射光を多重反射・多重干渉させる、高屈折率層および低屈折率層を有する積層干渉層を具備することを特徴とする光記録媒体。

【請求項2】前記積層干渉層は、高屈折率層および低屈折率層が順次積層された3層以上の積層体であることを特徴とする請求項1記載の光記録媒体。

【請求項3】前記超解像再生膜は、前記高屈折率層および前記低屈折率層のうちの少なくとも1層に兼用したことを特徴とする請求項2記載の光記録媒体。

【請求項4】前記照射光の波長を入とした時に、前記高屈折率層および低屈折率層の膜厚が実質的に $\lambda/4$ であることを特徴とする請求項2記載の光記録媒体。

【請求項5】前記反射層と前記積層干渉層との間に、前記閾値を超える照射光に対する光記録媒体の反射率を実質的に最大にする、あるいは前記閾値以下の照射光に対する光記録媒体の反射率を実質的に最小にするように膜厚制御された光学マッチング層を具備することを特徴とする請求項1記載の光記録媒体。

【発明の詳細な説明】

【0001】

【発明の属する技術分野】本発明は、光記録媒体に係り、特に照射光の光径よりも狭い領域の反射光が得られる超解像再生膜を用いた光記録媒体に関する。

【0002】

【従来の技術】光ビームの照射により情報の再生または記録・再生を行う光ディスクメモリは、大容量性、高速アクセス性、媒体可搬性を兼ね備えた記憶装置として音声、画像、計算機データなど各種ファイルに実用化されており、今後もその発展が期待されている。

【0003】光ディスクの高密度化技術としては原盤カッティング用ガスレーザの短波長化、動作光源である半導体レーザの短波長化、対物レンズの高開口数化、光ディスクの薄板化が考えられている。さらに、記録可能な光ディスクにおいてはマーク長記録、ランド・グループ記録など種々のアプローチがある。また、光ディスクの高密度化の効果が大きい技術として、媒体膜を利用した超解像再生技術が提案されている。超解像技術は当初、光磁気ディスクに特有の技術として提案されてきたが、その後ROMディスクでも記録層に対して再生光照射側

に、再生光の照射により光の透過率が変化する超解像再生膜を設けて超解像再生する試みが報告されている。このように、超解像再生技術は光磁気ディスク、CD-ROM、CD-R、WORM、相変化型光記録媒体など全ての光ディスクに適用可能であることが分かった。

【0004】従来の超解像再生技術で提案されている超解像再生膜はヒートモード方式とフォトンモード方式に大別される。ヒートモード方式では再生光照射による加熱で超解像再生膜に相転移などを発生させ、透過率の高い光学開口を形成する。この光学開口の形状は超解像再生膜の等温線と同一になる。フォトンモード方式では超解像再生膜としてフォトクロミック材料を用い、再生光照射による発色または消色を利用するフォトクロミック材料は光照射より電子が基底準位から寿命の短い励起状態へ励起され、さらに励起準位から寿命の非常に長い準安定励起準位へ遷移して捕捉されることにより光吸収特性の変化を発現する。したがって、繰り返して再生するには準安定励起準位に捕捉された電子を基底状態へ脱励起して、いったん形成された光学開口を閉じる必要がある。また、フォトンモード方式の超解像再生膜として吸収飽和現象を利用した半導体連続膜あるいは半導体微粒子分散膜を用いた例もある。これらの超解像再生材料は光照射量が所定の閾値を超えた時に材料自体の透過率が増加する。すなわち消衰係数が減少する特性を持っている。

【0005】すなわち、光照射量の多い領域（光学開口部）の光透過率を高くし、光照射量の少ない領域（光学マスク部）の光透過率を低くするため、光学開口部を透過する光の強度と、光学マスク部を透過する光の強度の差を大きくすることができる。

【0006】一方、2光子吸収を起こすKBr、CuBr、RbBr、CuCl等の材料やフォトクロミズムおよびサーモクロミズムを示す材料で消色状態から発色状態への変化を利用する場合などは、光照射量が所定の閾値を超えた時に消衰係数が増加する。

【0007】たとえば、この材料を超解像再生膜として用い、通常のレーザー光を用いて光照射した場合、照射光強度の高い光照射領域の中央部が光学マスク部となり、照射光強度の低い光照射領域端部近傍が光学開口となる。そのため、超解像再生膜の透過光の強度差を大きくすることが困難であり、また、照射光強度の強い領域を情報の読み取りに使用できない。

【0008】すなわち、閾値を超える光照射によって消衰係数大きくなる材料は、照射光強度の強い光スポット中央部が光学開口とならず、光利用効率が低下するという問題があった。

【0009】【発明が解決しようとする課題】上述したように、所定の閾値を超える光を照射した時に、消衰係数が増加する材料を超解像再生膜として使用した場合には、照射光強

度の強い領域を光学マスク部とするために光利用効率が低下するという問題があった。

【0010】本発明は、このような問題に鑑みて為されたものであり、所定の閾値を超える光照射によって消衰係数が大きくなる材料を超解像再生膜として用い、かつ、光照射領域中の照射光強度の高い領域の情報を読み取ることのできる光記録媒体を提供することを目的とする。

【0011】

【課題を解決するための手段】本発明の光記録媒体は、記録層と、この記録層を介して照射光が照射される反射層と、すくなくとも前記反射層の前記照射光側に形成され、所定の閾値を超える量の光照射により選択的に消衰係数が大きくなる超解像再生膜とを具備する光記録媒体であり、光記録媒体への照射光スポット内で、前記閾値を超える領域と、前記閾値以下の領域とで、光記録媒体の反射率が異なる光記録媒体において、前記反射層に対して少なくとも照射光側に形成され、前記照射光の入射光および、前記反射層による反射光を多重反射・多重干渉させる、高屈折率層および低屈折率層を有する積層干渉層を具備することを特徴とする。

【0012】すなわち、所定の閾値を超える光照射によって消衰係数が増加する（吸収率が増加するため、一般に光反射率、および光透過率が低減する）超解像再生膜は、単層で用いると、光照射量の多い領域で吸収率が増加するため、光透過率や光反射率を低下させるが、反射層上に、記録層、積層干渉層および超解像再生膜を積層した光記録媒体においては、所定の閾値を超える光が照射された領域のみ光記録媒体の反射率が高まることを見出した。

【0013】このような本発明の光記録媒体によれば、所定の閾値を超える光を照射する領域を反射率の高い領域とすることができ、光の利用効率を高めることができる。

【0014】さらに、本発明の光記録媒体によれば、光記録媒体の反射率の高い領域（以下、光学開口部と呼ぶ）と、光反射率の低い領域（以下、光学マスク部と呼ぶ）との反射率差を大きくすることが可能となり、読み取り誤差などの問題が低減される。

【0015】前記積層干渉層は、高屈折率層および低屈折率層が順次積層された3層以上の積層体であることが望ましい。

【0016】すなわち、高屈折率層／低屈折率層／高屈折率層／低屈折率層・・・の積層順、あるいは低屈折率層／高屈折率層／低屈折率層／高屈折率層・・・の積層順で積層し、多重反射・干渉する機会をより増やすことで、前述した効果が顕著になる。

【0017】なお、高屈折率層とは隣合う干渉層に対し相対的に屈折率の高い層であり、低屈折率層とは隣合う干渉層に対し相対的に屈折率の低い層を指す。

【0018】また、前記超解像再生膜は、前記高屈折率層および前記低屈折率層のうちの少なくとも1層に兼用することができる。

【0019】低屈折率層／高屈折率層からなる積層干渉層の高屈折率層に隣接して、この高屈折率層よりも屈折率の小さな超解像再生膜を形成する、あるいは低屈折率層に隣接してこの低屈折率層よりも屈折率の大きな超解像再生膜を形成することで、超解像再生膜を積層干渉層の一部として使用することも可能である。

【0020】また、前記反射層と前記積層干渉層との間に、前記閾値を超える照射光に対する光記録媒体の反射率を実質的に最大にする、あるいは前記閾値以下の照射光に対する光記録媒体の反射率を実質的に最小にするように膜厚制御された光学マッチング層を設けることができる。

【0021】本発明の光記録媒体は、光学開口部の光反射率が最大の反射率となる、あるいは光学マスク部の光反射率が最小となるように層構成を調整し、光学マスク部と、光学開口部との反射光の強度差を大きくすることが望まれる。超解像再生膜の膜厚や屈折率、あるいは必要に応じ設けられる透明基板の屈折率や反射率によって、光学開口部の光反射率が最大とならない場合がある。所定の屈折率を持つ材料からなる層を反射膜と積層干渉層との間に配置し、その膜厚を制御することで光学開口部の光反射率が最大となるように調整することが可能となる。

【0022】なお、本発明に用いられる超解像再生膜の消衰係数は複素屈折率の虚部を、屈折率とは複素屈折率の実部を指す。

【0023】

【発明の実施の形態】図1に本発明に関わる光記録媒体の断面図の一例を示す。

【0024】図1の光記録媒体では、記録情報がビットとして形成された記録層となる光ディスク基板1上に低屈折率層2と高屈折率層3とが複数層順次積層された積層干渉層1、超解像再生膜4、反射膜5が順次形成されている。図1の例では低屈折率層2と高屈折率層3は3組積層されている。

【0025】次に、本発明に係る超解像再生膜の消衰係数が変化した時の、光記録媒体の反射率特性について説明する。

【0026】図2は、本発明の光記録媒体の照射光波長と反射率の関係を示す図である。

【0027】まず、図2においては、超解像再生膜は、屈折率2.3（照射光による変化はなし）、照射光が閾値以下の時の消衰係数（以下、初期の消衰係数と呼ぶ）が0ものを用いる。図1で説明したような低屈折率層としてSiO₂、高屈折率層としてZnSを用いた6層の積層干渉層を用い、それぞれの膜厚を6.8.3nm、4.2.7nmとし、照射光として波長410nmのレーザ

一光を用いた時に、光記録媒体の初期の反射率が最低となるように、超解像再生膜の膜厚を73.5nmとしてある。

【0028】図2は、このような光記録媒体に所定の閾値以下の照射光を照射した時（超解像再生膜の屈折率2.3、消衰係数0）の光記録媒体の反射率、照射光が所定の閾値を超える、超解像再生膜の消衰係数が0.1、0.2、あるいは0.5に変化した場合の反射率の計算結果を示す。

【0029】また、図3には、超解像再生膜の消衰係数が、初期の屈折率の時と、所定の閾値を超える消衰係数が変化した時との反射率差を示す。

【0030】図2から明らかなように、照射光410nm近傍では消衰係数が大きくなるにしたがって反射率が増加することが分かる。すなわち、所定の閾値を超える光照射領域で超解像再生膜の消衰係数が増加し、その領域のみ光記録媒体の光反射率が増加し光学開口部となり、超解像再生膜が初期の消衰係数のままである所定の閾値以下の光照射領域では、光記録媒体の反射率が小さく光学マスク部となることが分かる。

【0031】このように超解像再生膜の消衰係数の増加に伴い反射率が増加するのは、積層干渉層を設けたことで、光記録媒体内で、照射光が多重反射し、多重干渉したためである。

【0032】また、図3から、消衰係数の変化率が大きくなるにしたがって、光学開口部と光学マスク部との反射率差が大きくなることが分かる。

【0033】次に、このような光記録媒体を用いた超解像再生技術について説明する。

【0034】図4は、超解像再生技術を説明するための光照射方向から見た光記録媒体の模式図である。

【0035】光記録媒体41には、トラックT1、T2、T3に沿って、所定ピッチで記録領域42が形成されており、再生光をトラックT1、トラックT2、トラックT3をそれぞれ順次走査していくことで、各トラックの記録情報を読み出す。

【0036】図4は、トラックT2にレーザー光などを用いて再生光を照射した時の図面であり、その再生光の光スポットをSで示している。超解像再生膜を具備しない光記録媒体においては、光スポットSと同じ領域から反射光を受けるため、光スポット径よりも小さなピッチで記録領域が形成されていると、光スポット内に複数の記録領域42、正確に記録情報を読み出すことができない。

【0037】本発明の光記録媒体においては、例えば、光スポットSの中心部近傍のみ所定の閾値を超える光照射量となるレーザー光を用いた場合には、所定の閾値を超える光照射領域のみ光記録媒体の反射率が高くなり、光スポットSより狭い光学開口Aが形成され、光スポット内に所定の閾値以下の光が照射される領域は反射率の

低い光学マスクMとなる。その結果、光スポットSよりも狭い光学開口A内ののみの記録領域を読取ることが可能になり、光スポットSよりも狭いピッチで記録領域が形成された記録情報を正確に読取ることが可能になる。

【0038】一方比較の為に、図2の構成で積層干渉層がなく、超解像再生膜と反射膜のみ形成された光記録媒体において、超解像再生膜の消衰係数が0から0.1、0.2、0.5に変化したときの各波長における反射率を図9に、反射率変化量を図10に示した。ただし、超解像再生膜が初期の消衰係数の時に光反射率が最低となるように、超解像再生膜の膜厚を73.5nmとした。

【0039】図9、10から分かるように、低屈折率層と高屈折率層の積層構造がない場合、消衰係数の増加に伴い反射率は低下することが分かる。

【0040】この記録媒体を用いた超解像再生を図11を用いて説明する。

【0041】光ビームの強い中心部近傍においては、超解像再生膜の消衰係数が大きくなり吸収率が増加して光記録媒体の反射率が低下し、光スポットSの中心部近傍

20 に光学マスクMが形成される。また、光スポットSの境界域近傍では、消衰係数が小さいので反射率が大きくなり光学開口Aが形成される。

【0042】すなわち、照射光量が多い領域の反射率が低く、照射光量が少ない領域の反射率が高いため、光学マスクMと光学開口Aとの反射光の強度差が小さくなり、また、光学開口部A内に複数の記録領域102が含まれる可能性が高くなり、記録情報の読み取り誤差が生じる恐れがある。

【0043】本発明に係る超解像再生膜は、前述のように所定の閾値を超える光照射によって選択的に消衰係数が大きくなる材料であり、一般にヒートモード系と、フォトンモード系のものが知られている。

【0044】ヒートモード系の超解像再生膜とは、光ビーム照射による加熱で閾値を超える部分のみを選択的に相転移などを発生させ、消衰係数を変化させる。例えばカルコゲン系のGeSbTe、AgInSbTeなどの相変化材料、ピアンスロン系、スピロビラン等のサーモクロミック材料などが挙げられる。

【0045】フォトンモード系の超解像再生膜は、例えばフォトクロミック材料など光照射により発色又は消色を利用したものが挙げられる。フォトクロミック材料は光照射より電子が規定順位から寿命の短い励起状態へ励起し、さらに励起準位から寿命の非常に長い準安定励起準位へ遷移して捕捉されることにより屈折率を選択的に変化させる。具体的にはビロベンゾビラン系分子、フルギド系分子、ジアリールエテン系分子、シクロファン系分子、アゾベンゼンなどが挙げられる。また、吸収飽和により光学定数が変化する半導体、半導体微粒子分散膜等が挙げられる。また、吸収飽和により消衰係数が変化する半導体、半導体微粒子分散膜などが挙げられる。

【0046】本発明に係る積層干渉層は、干渉効果を出させるために再生光などの照射光に対して実質的に光学膜厚 $\lambda/4$ の膜厚にすることが望ましい。また、隣接する高屈折率層と低屈折率層の屈折率差を大きくとることが望ましい。具体的には SiO_2 、 Al_2O_3 、 ZrO_2 、 TiO_2 、 ZrO_2 等の酸化物、 MgF_2 、 CaF_2 等の弗化物、 AlN 、 Si_3N_4 等の窒化物、 ZnS 等の硫化物、或いはそれらの混合物などを使用すればよい。

【0047】また、本発明に係る積層干渉層を構成する高屈折率層、あるいは低屈折率層とは、屈折率の異なる層を積層した積層干渉層において、隣合う層に対して相対的に高屈折率、あるいは低屈折率の材料からなる層を指す。例えばその組合わせとして、高屈折率層として ZrO_2 、 TiO_2 、 ZnS 、 $\text{ZnS} \cdot \text{SiO}_2$ 等を、低屈折率層として MgF_2 、 CaF_2 、 SiO_2 、 Al_2O_3 、 $\text{Na}_2\text{Al}_2\text{F}_6$ 等を用いることができる。

【0048】また、積層干渉層は、高屈折率層と低屈折率層とを順次積層してなるが、この積層数は5層～8層程度とすることが望ましい。但し、高屈折率層と低屈折率層の積層順および屈折率によってはこれ以外であっても、消衰係数の増加に伴ない、記録媒体の反射率が増加する。図1に示す光記録媒体において、積層数の異なる積層干渉層について、光照射により消衰係数が0から0.5に変化する超解像再生膜を用いた場合の反射率差を図5aに示す。ここでは、低屈折率層、高屈折率層、高屈折率層、低屈折率層の順で4層積層しており、消衰係数が0.5まで増加しても、消衰係数が0のときに比べて反射率が低いが、6層、8層では消衰係数が0のときに比べて反射率が高く、光学開口を形成できる。積層数が10層では消衰係数が0のときに比べて反射率が低くなる。一方、図1の層構成で積層干渉層が基板側から高屈折率層/低屈折率層の順に積層された構成において、積層数の異なる積層干渉層について、光照射により消衰係数が0から0.5に変化する超解像再生膜を用いた場合の反射率差を図5bに示す。この場合、4層から10層まで積層数を変えても消衰係数が0のときに比べて反射率が高くなるが、最も反射率差が大きいのは6層のときである。このように高屈折率層、低屈折率層の積層順、各層の屈折率によって、最適な積層数が決まる。いずれの場合においても、消衰係数が0のときの設定波長における反射率が20%以下であることが望ましく、反射率が小さければ小さいほど望ましい。

【0049】また、積層干渉層の積層数を多くするため、前記超解像再生膜を積層干渉層の一部として機能させることも可能である。例えば、積層干渉層と超解像再生膜とを隣接して形成し、超解像再生膜と隣接する層が高屈折率層である場合にはそれよりも屈折率の小さな材料からなる超解像再生膜を、超解像再生膜と隣接する層が低屈折率層である場合にはそれよりも屈折率の大きな材料からなる超解像再生膜を形成すればよい。

【0050】本発明に係る記録層は、図1に示すように、ポリカーボネート、ポリメチルメタクリレート、ガラスなどからなる光ディスク基板など適当な層を形成し、ピットを形成したものであっても良いし、例えば、 Ge-Sb-Te 系、 Ag-In-Sb-Te 系などの相変化材料などを記録層とし、この記録層に光ビームを照射し、その一部の光学特性を変化させることで、記録情報を作成したものであっても良い。

【0051】本発明に係る反射層は、前述した記録層、積層干渉層および超解像再生膜を介して照射される光を全反射することが好ましく、例えば、 Al 及び Al-Cr 、 Al-Ti 、 Al-Mo 等の Al 合金、 Au 、 Ag 、 Cu などを50nm以上平均膜厚を有する層とすることが望ましい。

【0052】また、図1に示す光記録媒体においては、超解像再生膜の膜厚を調整することで、光記録媒体の光学マスク部の反射率を最小となるように調整したが、干渉層と反射膜との間に光学マッチング層を形成し、この光学マッチング層の屈折率や膜厚を調整することで、超解像再生膜を任意の値にしても光記録媒体の光学マスク部の反射率を最小とすることができる。また、光記録媒体の光学開口部の反射率が最大となるように、光学マッチング層の屈折率や膜厚を調整しても良い。

【0053】前述したような光記録媒体の変形例を図6に示す。

【0054】図6においては、透明基板からなる光ディスク基板1上に、低屈折率層2および高屈折率層3が順次積層された6層構造の積層干渉層1-1、積層干渉層1-1上には超解像再生膜4が形成されており、この超解像再生膜は隣接する高屈折率層よりも低い屈折率の材料から形成されている。超解像再生膜上には相変化材料からなる記録層9、光学マッチング層10および反射膜5が順次積層されている。

【0055】上述したように、本発明の光記録媒体によれば、所定の閾値を超える光照射によって消衰係数が大きくなる超解像再生膜を用い、光強度の強い領域を光学開口として利用するために、光利用効率の高い光記録媒体が得られる。

【0056】なお、超解像再膜を用いた光記録媒体の再生技術について説明したが、本発明の光記録媒体は、同様の技術で光スポットよりも小さな記録領域を形成することも可能である。

【0057】

【実施例】以下、本発明の実施例を図面を参照して説明する。

【0058】実施例1

本実施例の層構成は、PC(ポリカーボネイト)基板/積層干渉層/超解像再生膜/反射膜を順次積層したものである。積層干渉層は、PC基板側から低屈折率層、高屈折率層の順で順次6層積層した構造である。

【0059】PC基板にトラック別に0.2μm～0.6μmの長さ、幅0.3μm、間隔が長さと同じピット列がそれぞれ形成されている。再生波長は413nmである。低屈折率層及び高屈折率層の屈折率はそれぞれ1.5、2.4であり、膜厚は光学膜厚がλ/4に相当する膜厚、低屈折率層6.8.8nm、高屈折率層4.3.0nmである。超解像再生膜の屈折率は2.3、初期の消衰係数は0.05である。

【0060】超解像再生膜の膜厚は、再生光が照射されていない初期状態において反射率が最小となるように7.3.5nmとしてある。この超解像再生膜は、再生光が照射されると消衰係数が0.3に変化する。反射膜にはAlTiを用い、その膜厚は50nmである。

【0061】また、比較例として、積層干渉層がない以外は、実施例1と同様の構成のディスクを作製した。

【0062】実施例1および比較例のディスクをKr+ガスレーザーを光源とした再生評価機でCNRのピット長依存性を測定した。但し、再生評価機の再生波長413nm、再生パワー1mWである。その結果を図7に示した。

【0063】図7からわかるように、ピット長が0.4μm以上と長い場合は、超解像再生膜が無い比較例の方がCNRが大きいが、ピット長が0.4μmよりも短くなると急激にCNRが減少する。これは十分な超解像効果が得られていないためである。

【0064】これに対し、本実施例のディスクはピット長が0.2μmと短くなても高いCNRを維持している。以上のことから、多層誘電体が超解像再生膜の特性向上に効果があることが確認できた。

【0065】実施例2

本実施例の層構成はPC基板/積層干渉層/低屈折率層/超解像再生膜/マッチング層/反射膜である。積層干渉層は、PC基板側から低屈折率層、高屈折率層の順で、順次4層積層された構造である。PC基板には0.2μm～0.6μmの長さ、幅0.3μm、間隔が長さと同じピット列がそれぞれ形成されている。再生波長は413nmである。低屈折率層及び高屈折率層の屈折率はそれぞれ1.5、2.4であり、膜厚は光学膜厚がλ/4に相当する膜厚、低屈折率層6.8.6nm、高屈折率層4.3.0nmである。超解像再生膜の屈折率は2.3、初期の消衰係数は0.05であり、その膜厚は光学膜厚がλ/4に相当する膜厚、4.4.9nmである。この超解像再生膜は再生光が照射されると消衰係数は0.3に変化する。

【0066】マッチング層にはAlNを用いた。AlNの屈折率は1.8である。マッチング層の膜厚は、再生光が照射されていない初期状態において反射率が最小となるように100nmとしてある。反射膜にはAlTiを用い、その膜厚は50nmである。

【0067】実施例1と同様の測定を行い、実施例1と

略同様の効果を確認した。

【0068】実施例3

本実施例の層構成は実施例1と同様の層構成である。但し、超解像再生膜の屈折率が2.25、初期の消衰係数が0.05である。

【0069】この超解像再生膜は再生光の照射により、屈折率が2.3消衰係数が0.25に変化する。実施例1と同様の測定を行い、略同様の効果を確認した。

【0070】実施例4

10 本実施例の層構成はPC基板/積層干渉層/超解像再生膜/マッチング層/記録層/干渉層/反射膜である。積層干渉層はPC基板側から低屈折率層、高屈折率層の順で順次6層積層した積層構造である。

【0071】すなわち、記録層がGe,Sb,Te_x,20nm、干渉層がZnS-SiO₂,40nmであること以外は、実施例1と同様の構成である。

【0072】また、比較例として積層干渉層の無いディスクを作製した。

【0073】記録・再生波長413nmで、本実施例及び比較例の光ディスクを用いて言己録再生特性を評価した。6m/s、記録パワーレベルを9mW、消去パワーレベルを4mWに設定し、オーバーライトモードでマーク長が0.3μmの記録マークをマーク間隔を変化させながら一周波数で記録した。

【0074】この際、熱干渉の影響を防ぐ目的で記録バルスを分割する記録補償を適用した。

【0075】上記のようにして記録した光ディスクについて再生を行った。再生パワー1mWに設定したときに、マーク間隔の異なるトラックを再生した高密度記録特性を評価した。この結果を図8に示す。

【0076】比較例の光ディスクではマーク間隔が0.3μm未満で符号間干渉の影響が強く、CNRが低下している。また、隣接トラックからのクロストークも大きいため、トラック上のマーク間隔が長い場合でもCNRのレベルはそれほど高くならない。これに対して、本実施例のディスクではマーク間隔が0.15μmでも高いCNRで再生できる。また、クロストークの影響を全く受けないため、0.15μmよりもマーク間隔が長いときのCNRも比較例より高い。

【0077】

【発明の効果】低屈折率層と高屈折率層を積層することで、光照射により消衰係数が増加するような超解像再生膜を用いても、CADの超解像再生方法を行なうことができ、狭マークピッチ及び狭トラックピッチの記録マークを高分解能で再生することができる。超解像膜に適応できる材料を広げることができる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】 本発明の光記録媒体の一例を示す断面図。

【図2】 本発明の光記録媒体の照射光波長と反射率の関係を示す図。

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【図3】 超解像再生膜の消衰係数が、初期の屈折率の時と、所定の閾値を超える消衰係数が変化した時との反射率差を示す図。

【図4】 超解像再生技術を説明するための図。

【図5】 積層干渉層の積層数の違いによる光記録媒体の反射率差を示す図。

【図6】 本発明の光記録媒体の変形例を示す図。

【図7】 本発明の実施例の光記録媒体に与えるCNRのピット長依存性を示す図。

【図8】 本発明の実施例の光記録媒体におけるCNRのマーク間隔依存性を示す図。

【図9】 超解像再生膜と反射膜のみ形成された光記録*

* 媒体の超解像再生膜の消衰係数が変化したときの反射率を示す図。

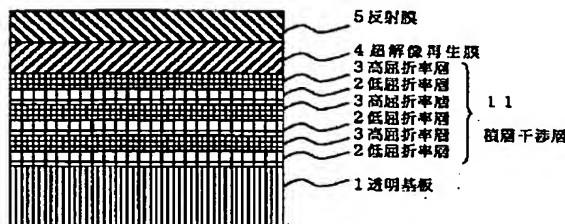
【図10】 図9の反射率変化量を示す図。

【図11】 積層干渉層のない光記録媒体における超解像再生技術を説明するための図。

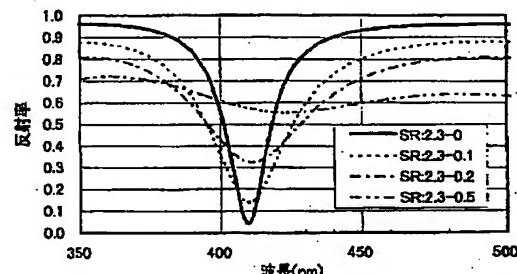
【符号の説明】

- 1 . . . 基板
- 2 . . . 超解像再生膜
- 3 . . . 停屈折率層
- 4 . . . 高屈折率層
- 5 . . . 反射膜
- 11 . . . 積層構成

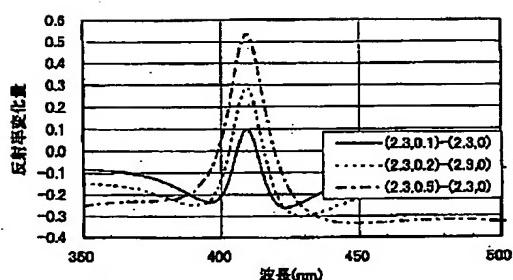
【図1】



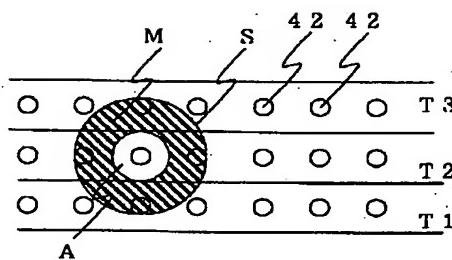
【図2】



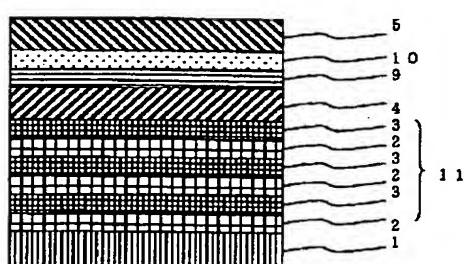
【図3】



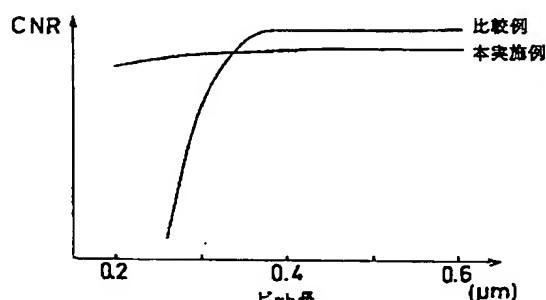
【図4】



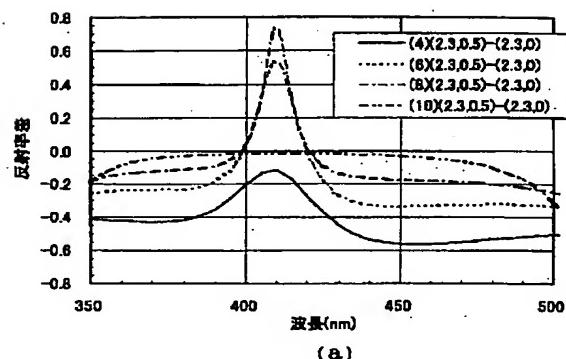
【図6】



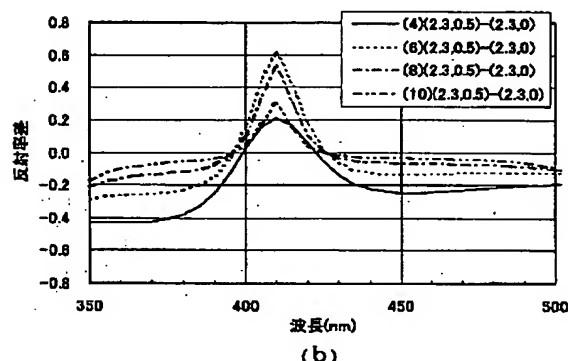
【図7】



【図5】

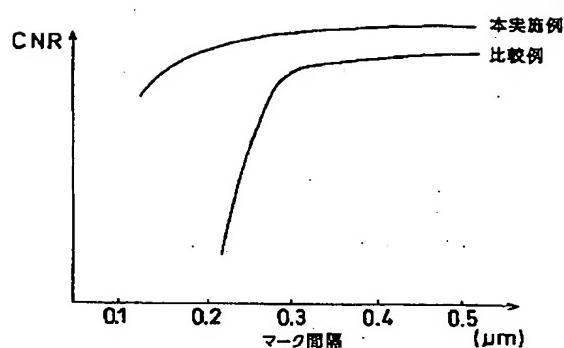


(a)

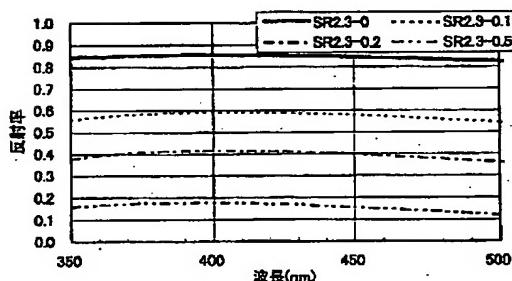


(b)

【図8】



【図9】



【図10】

